



Project Brief

The **Charter Project Africa** is a pan-African project focused on the commitments contained in the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG) – the central African Union policy document to advance democratic governance in African Union member states.

The project promotes the **usage of civic technology to amplify citizen voices**. This is achieved by providing financial resources, through grants, as well as technical resources, through know-how, to civic initiatives pursuing democracy, particularly those led by underrepresented groups. This support is delivered in eleven African Union member states – Benin, Botswana, Cabo Verde, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, and Zambia – as well as at regional and continental level.

The project also opens **spaces of collaboration between citizens, civic initiatives and African Union policy makers**, at national, regional and continental levels – with an emphasis on digital formats. A particular focus is given to the role and the mandate of the African Governance Architecture (AGA). Further, the role of the ACDEG in achieving positive change in African Union member states is monitored, analysed and promoted. Presence through a dedicated Secretariat in Addis Ababa ensures that linkages between pan-African civil society and African Union policy makers are strengthened.

For more information, contact charter@epd.eu.

Project information

Duration	1 January 2021 – 30 June 2024
Target countries	Botswana, Benin, Cabo Verde, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, and Zambia
Consortium	European Partnership for Democracy (EPD) AfricTivistes Code for Africa (CfA) Democracy Works Foundation (DWF) Gorée Institute European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM)
Budget	EUR 3 333 333



Objectives

- Civil society across Africa is empowered in representing citizens at the continental level, working with the AGA, and promoting democratic governance in AU member states.
- Civic initiatives, particularly those led by youth, are strengthened in their ability to leverage knowledge, data and technology to analyse, monitor and promote the implementation of the ACDEG.
- African Union policymakers, national decision-makers and civil society organisations have increased collaboration to address challenges to democratic governance jointly.

Activity Clusters

1. Civic Technology & Digital Engagement	2. Democratic Governance Initiatives
<p>A digital platform will curate ACDEG-relevant content, along with relevant open source software code and data, and a directory of digital democracy experts, serving as a repository for campaign activities carried out at national, regional and continental levels. Online processes will engage citizens and activists in dialogue and learning. Civic tech initiatives and activists will be supported.</p>	<p>Democratic Governance Initiatives (DGIs) will be launched at national, regional, and continental level and represent, as a whole, a central element of the project, enabling and enriching and connecting to all other activities. The unifying and linking element between all DGIs will be the ACDEG. DGIs will be implemented by civic organisations, in particular youth-based initiatives.</p>
3. Regional Engagement	4. AGA Support & Matchmaking
<p>Coordinated multi-stakeholder policy dialogue & advocacy processes - online and offline - unfolding primarily at regional level will be launched. These will focus on ACDEG implementation within RECs, yet feature an underlying analysis and consensus-building on the viability of cooperation between pan-African civic initiatives with the AGA.</p>	<p>Knowledge brokerage will be provided to strengthen mutual understanding and thus engagement between AGA policy makers and civic initiatives - coordinated through a 'Civil Society Secretariat' in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Integration of activities and synergies between partners and AU policy processes will be facilitated.</p>
5. Policy Analysis & Strategy	
<p>Context analysis and policy research will be carried out, particularly on the AU governance infrastructure and drivers for cooperation at continental, regional and national level. This will shed light on the political economy of ACDEG implementation. Methodological tools will support civil society representatives in adapting their engagement with the AGA.</p>	